

**DEMAND-CAST SYSTEM AND BANDWIDTH MANAGEMENT FOR DELIVERY
OF INTERACTIVE PROGRAMMING**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for more efficient utilization of the finite bandwidth available for
5 distribution of interactive program guide (IPG) video sequences. The system utilizes a
session manager and a transport stream generator to enable a set top terminal to access an
entire array of guide pages from the IPG within the constraints imposed by the limited
bandwidth available in the distribution network.

One embodiment of the present invention comprises a system that includes a
10 session manager (SM) and a transport stream generator (TSG) within a distribution control
center. The SM monitors and controls usage of demand-cast stream bandwidth within the
distribution network. The TSG receives information from the SM on each demand-cast
stream. The information includes which set top terminals, if any, are currently acquiring the
stream. The TSG uses the information to control the demand-cast streams multiplexed into
15 the transport stream for distribution to the set top terminals.

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